



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Salmon-Challis
National Forest
Leadore Ranger District


PO Box 180, 176 N Railroad St.
Leadore, ID 83464
208 768-2500

File Code: 2210/2230

Date: May 20, 2015

Glenn and Caryl Elzinga
7073 Custer Road
May, ID 83253

Dear Glenn and Caryl,

The following letter will document your meeting with Ingrid Drieling, Carren Morgan, Ace Hess , and Diane Schuldt on April 9th, 2015 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) on the Hat Creek C&H allotment for the 2015 grazing season. The authorized use for the Hat Creek C&H allotment for cattle with the  brand will be as follows:


Permitted Use

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Number/Class</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Hat Creek C&H	Glenn and Caryl Elzinga	311 c/c	879	7/1-9/24
		207 c/c	585	7/1-9/24

Authorized Use for the 2015 Grazing Season

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Permittee</u>	<u>Number/Class</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Hat Creek C&H	Glenn and Caryl Elzinga	175 yearlings	293	5/10-8/20

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Number/Class</u>	<u>H.M.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Hat Creek C&H	Deer Gulch (BLM)	175 yearlings	NA	5/10-6/30
	Little Hat (Bear Basin) BLM	175 yearlings	NA	5/10-6/30
	Little Hat Creek	175 yearlings	178	7/01-7/31
	Park-Moose	175 yearlings	115	8/01-8/20
	Iron Mountain	REST	N/A	REST
	Big Hat	REST	N/A	REST

Only cattle with the  brand are authorized to graze on the Hat Creek C&H allotment. The Annual Operating Instructions are made part of your Term Grazing Permit as per Part 2, item 8(a) of the General Provisions and Regulations.

Situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. Dates listed in the authorized use section may vary based on management needs or range readiness and proper use standards. **If changing unit move dates becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact Tina Ruffing, the Rangeland Management Specialist assigned to your allotment, and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.** Changes can be made based on resource objectives, provided the changes are first



approved and documented by an authorized officer. Any extension of use beyond the permitted dates will not be authorized.

Allowable Use

The allowable use standards for the Hat Creek C&H allotment are listed below. It is your responsibility to be aware and recognize utilization and alteration standards. You must move your livestock to the next unit planned, or off the allotment, when those standards have been met. If you need assistance determining utilization levels please contact Tina and she will assist you. **Once cattle are removed from a unit in accordance with use standards and unit scheduling, they are not allowed to return. Please ensure you clean all livestock from your units.** The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with allowable use standards. Monitoring typically occurs within two weeks of your unit move date. Please contact Tina if you would like to join range personnel when monitoring is done your allotment.

Key Area Locations	Unit Creek	Monitoring Attribute	Annual Use Indicator	Key Species	Trigger
MIM M203	Iron Mountain Unit Little Hat	Greenline Stubble	4 in	Hydric spp	5 in
		Bank Alteration	20%	n/a	20%
MIM M236	Iron Mountain Unit Tributary to Big Hat	Greenline Stubble	4 in	Hydric spp	5 in
		Bank Alteration	20%	n/a	20%
MIM M235	Big Hat Creek Unit Big Hat Creek	Greenline Stubble	6 in	Hydric spp	7 in
		Bank Alteration	20%	n/a	15%
MIM M205	Iron Mountain Unit Middle Fork Hat	Greenline Stubble	4 in	Carex spp	4 in
		Bank Alteration	20%	n/a	20%
MIM M208	Park-Moose Unit Moose Creek	Greenline Stubble	4 in	Carex spp	4 in
		Browse Use	50%	Willow	50%
Upland Sites	All Units	Utilization	50%	Upland grass species	45%
Riparian Areas	All Units	Utilization by Key Species	50%	Riparian grass species	45%

Biological Assessment and Opinion Requirements

The following measures will be implemented as part of the Hat Creek Allotment's Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) to avoid and reduce potential impacts to ESA-listed fish.

1. A rest rotation grazing system will continue to be used. Resting the Iron Mountain Unit every other year provides benefits to riparian vegetation. This will help meet our long term riparian resource objective for greenline successional status.
2. The on date will be varied so that livestock will be placed on the allotment at range readiness. This will reduce potential for bank alteration. This will help meet our long term riparian resource objective for bank stability.
3. Annual use indicators will dictate when livestock are moved between units or off the allotment within the terms of the term grazing permit including moves in response to fish spawning. This will help us meet our long term riparian resource objectives. Annual use indicators will be monitored by Forest Service personnel.

4. Permittees will continue to salt at least ¼ mile away from stream channels. This will continue to reduce potential impacts on spawning areas and designated critical habitat.
5. Permittees will continue to distribute livestock away from streams and associated riparian areas (ride) at least once every two weeks, reducing potential impacts on spawning areas and designated critical habitat.
6. Fences and water developments have been placed to reduce livestock use on streams and their associated riparian areas. This will continue to reduce impacts on spawning areas and designated critical habitat.
7. Livestock do not use the Middle Fork Hat Creek area of the Iron Mountain Unit. This area is heavily timbered and the permittee has lost livestock to wolf predation here in the past.

Actual Use and Improvement Maintenance Reports

Your accurate documentation of actual use and maintenance is vital to the yearly allotment record. Numbers, move dates, riding and photos are all items used to compile End of Year reports written by your Rangeland Management Specialist. These reports are submitted yearly to the service agencies and published on the web.

Actual use and range improvement maintenance forms have been included for you to complete and return within 30 days of your off date.

Range Improvements

Range improvements listed in Part 3 of your grazing permit **must** be maintained prior to livestock entering the allotment. Contact Tina to discuss materials and supplies for any improvements that are in need of re-construction.

You were provided with an improvement list and map to document the condition of the Range Improvements on your allotment. Please complete the document and return it to your Rangeland Management Specialist.

No improvement reconstruction needs were discussed.

General Management

The grazing fees for 2015 are the base rate of \$1.69 per head month. Payment of your grazing bill is due prior to your earliest turnout date.

The Salmon-Challis Travel Management Record of Decision was signed December 24, 2009. With the issuance of this decision, all roads and trails designated for motorized use are shown on a motor vehicle use map (MVUM). Motor vehicle use maps may be obtained at any Salmon-Challis Ranger District office. As detailed in 36 CFR 261.13; 36 CFR 212.51a the prohibitions on motor vehicle use will not apply to motor vehicle use that is specifically authorized under a written authorization issued under Federal law or regulation. **Effective March 20th, 2015 the Salmon Challis National Forest requires a Vehicle Use Permit, signed by the District Ranger, for ALL closed roads or off road travel. This must be displayed in windshield for Trucks or carried on ATV's, UTV's and Motorcycles. Contact**

your Rangeland Management Specialist to obtain a Vehicle Use Permit for any closed road or off-road travel.

Approval of requests for personal convenience and resource protection nonuse is not automatic and the authorized officer should discuss the reasons for the nonuse request with the permittee. Requests for non-use must be done in writing and the approval of a request for non-use must be in writing by the authorized officer. Full or partial permittee convenience nonuse may be approved by the authorized officer for no more than three consecutive years and not more than four years in any ten year period.

Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads, and trails.

Place salt at least ¼ mile from water sources and in areas lightly grazed to encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range.

Invasive weeds are becoming a serious threat to the welfare of our rangelands. Your assistance is needed to identify new outbreaks of weed populations and to prevent the establishment of weeds on the forest. We have implemented a Noxious Weed Free Hay order on our Forest. This will require any hay that is brought onto the National Forest to be certified free from noxious weeds.

If you spot a wild fire, report it immediately to the Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center in Salmon, ID at (208) 756-5157.

If you have any questions regarding any of the allotments for which you have permits, please call Tina Ruffing at (208) 756-5226 or myself at (208) 756-5247.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jay T. Winfield

JAY WINFIELD
District Ranger

Encl: Improvement Maintenance and Actual Use Records